***United Nations celebration of World Oceans Day***

**LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS THE 2022 UN OCEAN CONFERENCE**

***A hybrid event of the UN Green Deal Task Force in Brussels***

#### Wednesday, 8 June 2022, 12:30-14:00

# UN House, Boulevard du Régent 37-40, 1000 Brussels, Room 61 & Zoom

**Background**

The oceans lie at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, they provide development pathways that contribute to a more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world.

The oceans are an essential component of our planet’s ecosystem. They provide oxygen and regulate the global climate, serving as the primary regulator of the global surface temperature and an important sink for greenhouse gases. Marine and coastal ecosystems provide protection from natural disasters. Ocean economies provide benefits to many sectors of great socio-economic value, such as fisheries, transport, biotechnologies, energy production and tourism to name a few. Their resources support human well-being and livelihoods, and they are critical to global food security and societal objectives such as equity, sustainable economic development and gender equality, among many others.

However, oceans face unprecedented pressure due to the expansion of human activities. Enhanced technologies and capabilities have brought the exploitation of ocean resources to an unprecedented level. Marine litter and micro-plastic from consumer products, ship source pollution combined with untreated wastewater and nutrients continue to pollute our oceans. Ocean acidification, warming and changing currents disrupt ecological processes and functions. Overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, crimes in the fisheries sector and destructive fishing practices threaten fish stocks and livelihoods. Mining and fossil fuel companies are expanding the reach of their activities to previously inaccessible resources at the sea floor.

There is an urgent need to change the course of action by addressing the challenges faced by the ocean. Pursuing sustainable ocean economies is an essential avenue to support coastal communities and profiting from marine resources in generations to come.

The sustainable use of oceans and seas fosters and requires global and regional cooperation in the management of shared resources. Despite progresses made, much needs to be done to deliver effectively on SDG 14. It is therefore essential to continue and amplify momentum by setting high ambitions for the coming decade.

**The 2022 UN Ocean Conference**

The “2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14:  Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development’’ will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July 2022. The event highlights the critical role of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, including sustainable ocean-based economies and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole.

The 2022 UN Ocean Conference will take place during a critical period for climate change and biodiversity, which must deliver strong new targets and raise ambitions for the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It will build on previous related international meetings, including the 2017 High-level UN Ocean Conference, which galvanized action through solution-oriented partnerships and voluntary commitments, the 7th Our Ocean Conference, where Countries, civil society and industry committed to concrete actions to protect the oceans, and on the One Ocean Summit, held in Brest in February 2022, which brought together 41 States to take action to preserve the oceans.

**About the Event in Brussels:**

Several UN Agencies are joining forces, under the UN Brussels Task Force on the European Green Deal, to co-organize this event in the run up to the UN Ocean Conference, with the objective of raising awareness, leveraging a one-UN approach and strengthening partnerships with EU Institutions and Brussels-based stakeholders, to jointly support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.

The event will provide a forum for exchanges, focussing on partnerships and joint advocacy while maintaining the momentum on Ocean action. It will bring together a wide range of partners with the objective of sharing relevant messages and priorities relating to the topics of the UN Ocean Conference, not only presenting shared solutions for ongoing challenges but also providing opportunities to reflect on how to better foster cooperation to achieve SDG 14. Organizing the event on World Oceans Day, 8 June 2022, will add to the messaging.

Objectives of the event:

* To provide a space for showcasing reinforced cooperation to support SDG 14 between Brussels stakeholders.
* To maintain momentum on Ocean action.
* To share key messages in the run up to the UN Ocean Conference.

Format of the event:

The event will have a roundtable format where participants will have the opportunity to present activities, ideas and solutions to achieve sustainable development through the promotion of sustainable and productive oceans in an integrated manner – from the promotion of ocean-based economies that aim at sustainable management of natural resources, as well as of green economy as one of the tools available for achieving sustainable development.

The event will be held in hybrid format – the UN House (Boulevard du Régent 37-40, 1000 Brussels - Room 61) will host and welcome in-person speakers and include three segments highlighting concrete examples of collaboration in addressing some of the major challenges and opportunities faced by the ocean today, namely: (i) tackling IUU fishing, overfishing and crimes committed in the fisheries value chains; (ii) addressing marine pollution and plastic pollution; and (iii) promoting ocean governance and awareness raising.

The event will involve relevant and interested stakeholders from:

* UN Agencies in Brussels
* DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
* DG Environment, European Commission
* Organization of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)
* European Parliament & Fisheries Committee
* European Economic and Social Committee
* Portugal and Kenya, co-chairs of the UN Oceans Conference

**Coordinating agencies of the UN Green Deal Task Force**: FAO, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO and UNODC.

**Agenda**

##### Moderator: Ms Myrto Arvaniti, FAO

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| 12:30 | **Welcome (12’)*** **Camilla Brückner, Director of the UN Office in Brussels**
* [**Charlina Vitcheva**](https://ec.europa.eu/info/persons/charlina-vitcheva_en)**, Director General,** DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission
* **H.E. Ambassador Manuela Teixeira Pinto,** Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the European Union, Co-Chair of the UN Oceans Conference
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| 12:42 | **Screening of a video (2’)** |
| 12:44 | Session 1 (15’) - Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing* **Cristelle Pratt,** Assistant Secretary-General for the Environment and Climate Action, Organization of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)
* **Raschad Al-Khafaji**, Director of the FAO Liaison Office in Brussels
* **Alan Cole**, Director of [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=101278c1bd8b8e0319b5d1a4c81001e1e42a237d69846ae75c37d994f6f9bdd5JmltdHM9MTY1Mjg4MzA3MSZpZ3VpZD0wZDgzOTM1YS1jNDRhLTRkZWItOWU5Yi03ZTM0MDFmYTY1NmYmaW5zaWQ9NTE2OQ&ptn=3&fclid=5ece6fcd-d6b4-11ec-8552-c8e5744b48cb&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudW5vZGMub3JnLw&ntb=1) (UNODC),

Border Management BranchGuiding question: Global action is making a major difference in efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and crimes in the fisheries sector, but more needs to be done as consumer demand and fish production continue to rise. Could you tell us what is missing to close the net on IUU fishing, crimes in the fisheries sector and how can we leverage partnerships to address them?  |
| 12:49 | Session 2 (15’) - Marine Pollution and Marine Plastics* **Veronika Hunt Šafránková**, Head of the UNEP Brussels Office
* **Hugo-Maria Schally**, Adviser for International Environmental Negotiations, DG Environment (DG ENV)
* [**Maria Nikolopoulou**](http://memberspage.eesc.europa.eu/Search/Details/Person/2035557?onlyActiveMandate=True&isMinimal=False), Rapporteur of the Economic and Social Committee Opinion on Zero Pollution Action Plan for Air, Water and Soil

Guiding question: Following the landmark resolution to end plastic pollution adopted at the fifth UN Environment Assembly, how to ensure engagement and coordination of all relevant stakeholders in support of SDG 14.1? |
| 13:14 | Session 3 (15’) - Ocean Governance and Awareness* **Andrew Hudson**, Head of Water & Ocean Governance Programme, UNDP
* **Isabel Carvalhais,** Member of the European Parliament, Member of European Parliamentary Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition
* **Louise Haxthausen**, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels

Guiding question: Can you provide examples of initiatives that have transformed ocean governance towards integrated, cross-sectoral, ecosystem-based approaches that advance SDG 14 implementation? |
| 13:29 | **Moderated discussion (20’)*** Questions/input from the floor & chat
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| 13:49 | **Special intervention (5’)*** **Vladimir Ryabinin,** Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and Assistant Director-General of UNESCO
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| 13:54 | Way forward and closing (5’)* **H.E. Ambassador Jacob T. Kaimenyi,** Embassy of the Republic Kenya to the European Union, Co-Chair of the UN Oceans Conference
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